

Community Profile



California Department of Health Services | Cancer Detection Programs: Every Woman Counts

partnered for progress

Area Served:

Los Angeles County

Medically Underserved Women Helped:

Over 127,000 women have been screened for breast cancer from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2001. They include 70% Hispanic/Latina, 7% White, 3% African-American and 11% Asian/Pacific Islander women.

Program Contact:

4929 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 810
Los Angeles, CA 90010
323-930-5424

Most Significant Challenge:

The support of over 450 primary care providers with information on breast screening, tracking and follow-up in order to assure quality service and to meet the needs of a large, diverse population.

How Challenge Is Met:

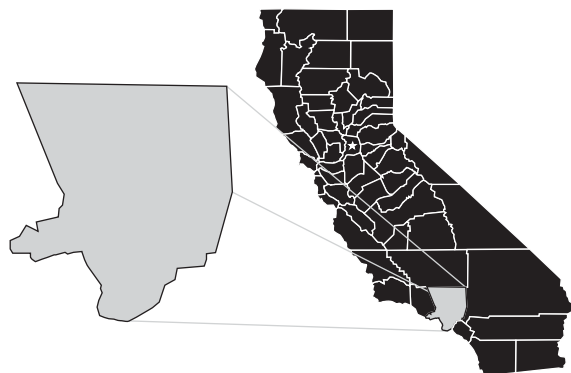
A Continuous Quality Improvement Committee develops programs that assist providers in improving breast health clinical services, and three Ethnic Task Forces address cultural barriers to accessing these services.

Program Spotlight:

"Triple Test" Program Offers Triple Protection

Accurate diagnosis of breast cancer can often be complicated and confusing, even for medical professionals. That is why Partnered for Progress, the Los Angeles county regional cancer partnership, developed a professional education program designed to help primary care providers guide women through all the necessary procedures generated by an abnormal screening.

Called "Diagnosis of Breast Lesions for Primary Care Practitioners: The Triple Test Concept," the educational course includes presentations



by primary care physicians, radiologists, pathologists and surgeons – along with explanations of the diagnostic algorithms designed to help primary care practitioners through the diagnostic process.

Launched four years ago, the Triple Test program emphasizes close collaboration and clear communication between the patient and physicians in different specialties. Usually, a number of physicians or health professionals are involved in conducting the three types of exams or tests necessary to obtain an accurate diagnosis of breast cancer. These include a clinical breast exam, radiological or mammography exam, and diagnostic (pathological) exam. These three tests need to be in agreement for physicians to confidently diagnose breast cancer.

More than 350 physicians, physician assistants, mammography technologists and advanced practice RNs have completed the course.

In addition to "Triple Test," the partnership also has developed programs geared to assist providers in caring for women through annual recall systems, tracking and follow-up.